

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00745 281309Z
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 MC-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01
TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-01 EB-04 SP-02
L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /052 W
-----281311Z 114866 /40

R 271305Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 745

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, LT (OFENHEIMER, ARNO)

SUBJECT: ARMS PURCHASES

1. MR. ARNO OFENHEIMER (ITALIAN NATIONAL, RESIDENT OF AUSTRIA) MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CHEMTALL (LESOTHO) (PTY) LTD, PO BOX MS 61, MASERU, CALLED ON CHARGE' MAY 26 TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AND EXPLAIN HIS BUSINESS INTEREST IN SELLING ARMS TO LESOTHO POLICE MOBILE UNIT. MR. OFENHEIMER HAS JUST OPENED AN OFFICE HERE. HIS MAIN OFFICE IS IN JOHANNESBURG WITH A SISTER FIRM CHEMTALL RHEAX (S.A.) LTD. BOTH THE SOUTH AFRICA AND PESOTHO COMPANIES BELONG TO A HOLDING COMPANY TRANSROPA IN VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN.

2. MR. OFENHEIMER SAID HE HOLDS THE DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS IN LESOTHO FOR STEYR-DAIMLER-PUCH, MANUFACTURERS OF THE STEYR MANNLICHER SSG SNIPING RIFLE. HE SAID HE HAS SOLD TWELVE SSGN RIFLES TO THE PMC ALREADY AND HOPES TO LAND A LARGER ORDER FOR
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THEEE WEAPONS (THE 400 MAN PMU IS PRESENTLY ARMED WITH BELGIAN FN RIFLES). OFENHEIMER ALSO IS IN TOUCH WITH SMITH/WESSON AND COLT CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF FILLING AN ORDER FOR SIDEARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS FOR PMU. HE REQUESTED COPIES OF FORM DSP-83 RPT 83 FOR USE IN CMNNECTION WITH ARMS PURCHASES FROM U.S. BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE THIS FORM ON FILES AND REFERRED HIM TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG.

3. OFENHEIMER SAYS HE ALSO REPRESENTS MANUFACTURER (POSSIBLY ALSO STSYR-DAIMLER-PUCH) OF PINZGAUER 4 AND 6 WHEELED MILITARY CROSS COUNTRY PERSONNEL TRANSPORT VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES WERE DEMONSTRATED RECENTLY FOR PMU HERE IM MASERU. HE HAS SOLD ONE PINZGAUER 4 WHEEL VEHICLE TO PMU FOR TRIALS AND SAYS HE HAS AN ORDER HO DELIVER FORTY MORE.

4. OFENHEIMER PRESENTED POLICE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE NO. //05/CERTX11-94 DATED MARCH 2, 1977 ON INTERPOL LETTERHEAD SIGNED BY COMMANDING OFFICER, LESOTHO CID, COLONEL R. MATELA. CERTIFICATE STATES OFENHEIMER IS HOLDER OF FIREARMS DEALERS CERTIFICATE NO. 5 AND HAS BEEN GRANTED AUTHORITY TO IMPORT CERTAIN FIREARMS INTO LESOTHO FROM ANY COUNTRY. OFENHEIMER DID NOT SHOW CHARGE' TABULATION OF TYPES OF ARMS HE IS PERMITTED TO IMPORT.

5. OFENHEIMEC SAYS HE IS INTERESTED IN ARMS SALES TO GOVTS OF BOTSWANA ANE SWAZILAND AS WELL. HE SAID HE HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES IN MOVING WEAPONS THROUGH SA TO LESOTHO.

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Message Attributes

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